

APPROVED: Meeting No. 43-95

ATTEST: *Paula S. Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
Meeting No. 28A-95

May 16, 1995

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on May 16, 1995, at 7:35 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor James F. Coyle

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember Nina A. Weisbroth

In attendance were Acting City Manager Rick Kuckkahn, City Clerk Paula Jewell, Director of Finance Kevin Deckard, the Budget Planning Team staff Chris Freel and Susan Fournier, Public Information Officer Don Vandrey, Chief of Police Terry Treschuk, Director of Community Development Neal Herst, Director of Community Services Josephine Roberts, Director of Public Works Bob Goodin, Data Processing Manager David Mays, and Director of Personnel Rich Hajewski.

Re: Budget Worksession with Police  
Department

Chief Treschuk gave an overview of the increased workload in his department; he said that he felt this was due to the citizens increased comfort level in calling upon the Police Department. Mayor Coyle questioned whether the police department anticipated additional demands from the development of Town Center. Chief

Treschuk responded that demands on the department would increase with the Town Center redevelopment as well as with the proposed annexations of the Gude area property and the King Farm. He noted that beginning July 1, 1995 there will be an additional officer on board as a result of the Federal grant the Police Department received. Councilmember Krasnow suggested that the Police Department project out 5-7 years of what the City's police needs would be.

Mayor Coyle asked whether the Police Department could take on a motorcycle patrol program. Chief Treschuk responded that last year the department borrowed a motorcycle, however, they were hesitant to do this again, although they felt a need for motorcycle patrol. He noted that there was a bike waiting to be purchased for \$11,000, however, there was no current funding for this project. Staff was asked to find a way to fund a motorcycle patrol vehicle.

Chief Treschuk commented that the City's relationship with Montgomery County Police had improved greatly. However, he noted that there were approximately 450 officers on the County's force with less than two years of experience.

Re: Budget Worksession with  
Community Development

Director Neal Herst noted his department's newest initiatives. He said through Economic Development trends at all levels of government, there would be a greater emphasis placed on economic activities. Staff will focus strongly on attracting new businesses and retaining current ones. The department is planning to produce a video of

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highlights for businesses. In addition, advertisements will be placed in selected trade publications to target knowledge-based industries. Staff will also be attending and exhibiting at conferences that specialize in targeting knowledge-based industries. Staff will be working with the World Trade Center in Baltimore on international business issues, pursuing annexations which have the potential for being the City's future, and will be continuing efforts to improve customer service.

Councilmember Weisbroth asked if there was any impact on planning staff as a result of the annexations. Mr. Herst responded that current staffing levels were adequate for now, however as large amounts of development come to the City, the department may need additional staff.

Re: Budget Worksession with  
Personnel Department

Personnel Director Rich Hajewski said that his department would be maintaining existing systems as they relate to wages and salaries, and benefits administration. The department is focusing on the management care system which is related to job injury cost containment which is a driving factor. Mr. Hajewski noted that this would be accomplished through a claims service. Staff is also implementing a required drug and alcohol testing for all City vehicle drivers with CDL licenses. They are also looking for multi-year contracts with employee representative groups and will maintain ongoing good relationships. The employee handbook is due out at the end of the year and this will be distributed to staff who will also be trained. Personnel staff will

continue an open-door policy regarding employee moral and will take an pro-active approach to seek out employees who have specific concerns and offer ways to work through the concerns.

Re: Budget Worksession with  
Recreation and Parks Department

Director Burt Hall said that revenues were running 20 percent higher due to a greater participation in City programs and it was expected that this trend will continue. Staff will work at maintaining services at the basic levels. The department will continue to offer a responsive package of programs and services. Due to increased demands in some programs, they will expand, e.g., summer camps. Staff is also seeking greater contributions from other corporate businesses; this year, Home Depot donated \$16,000 for the Rotary Run. For the fifth year in a row, staff was projecting no COLAs for their 700 part-time employees. There have also been some changes in the City's Summer Camp Programs.

Improvements will continue to be made at the Senior Center according to the Master Plan. Mr. Hall noted that utility costs were increasing and there were also some increases due to the annexation of the Irvington Farm. Special Events expenditures are slightly reduced. The revenue picture at the Civic Center is very good due to double-booking of events. Theater and lobby renovations at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre will soon be taking place. Mr. Hall also noted that there were no increases in fees proposed for the Swim Center and there is strong participation in this program.

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Councilmember Marrinan asked where the City stood on the issue of extending health insurance to part-time employees. He asked whether staff could work-up a cost proposal on this; who would be involved; and what it would cost the City.

Mayor Coyle suggested there was need to investigate adding an addition to the Theatre, especially while substantial renovation work in the lobby area will be undertaken. Mr. Hall stated that staff did take a look at this a few years ago, however, they will do so again to see if there is grant money available for this project.

Re: Budget Worksession with  
Community Services Department

Director Josephine Roberts reported that the Community Services Department will be looking at getting the Community Mediation Program out into the Rockville community. The department will also continue to build on the City's strong cultural diversity for its services and programs. The department is faced with old and new challenges regarding how to strengthen and keep families together. Ms. Roberts noted that the Parenting Programs were popular and the department had recently added a Spanish Parenting Program. The department will continue to work with the Mentoring Programs for teenagers and linking senior citizens with youth. Recently, a Spanish Mentoring Program was kicked off with the Rockville Housing Authority. The department is also working with the outside agencies in coordinating their reporting requirements. Ms. Roberts said there is a concern regarding cut-backs in federal programs and welfare reform. She said these will have an tremendous impact on Rockville families. Private

Industry Council funding this year looks promising. The department is also looking into using interns to provide some additional help in the department. The department is also looking into how to use fundraising to help fund some programs, e.g., voluntary contributions and sponsorship by industries.

Councilmember Marrinan said that he noticed that Montgomery County Family Services Agency programs were not in the City of Rockville. Ms. Roberts said that a lot of their programs were fee-associated, and she said staff will take a look into this.

Councilmember Krasnow said she was worried about the pressures on the City's REAP Program because of the gap in what the County is and is not providing. Staff was asked to look at this issue; the City may want to look at how other municipalities are impacted and what they are doing about the problem.

Re: Budget Worksession with Public  
Works Department

Director Bob Goodin noted that the most significant element in the Public Works Department budget was the reorganization plan. He gave a history of this department's structure and said that staff's priority is consideration of "citizens as customers." Staff would be contracting for some engineering, inspection, and surveying services and were also being trained as generalists to meet the needs of the City. Mr. Goodin noted that staff had been reduced from 136 employees to 114. The goals of the reorganization would be to improve efficiency and effectiveness throughout Fiscal Year

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1996. Mr. Goodin said that they were proposing the establishment of five task forces would be formulated to study the following:

- (a) motor vehicles
- (b) smooth sealing (exploring an alternative to this program)
- (c) concrete maintenance standards
- (d) In the Refuse Division they will explore once a week pick-up and proposing incentives for those residents willing to try a once per week pick-up program
- (e) recycling program (proposing to write specification to allow the City to bid against a private contractor).

The Mayor and Council concluded the budget worksession with the Department of Public Works in order to meet with visiting members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Peerless Rockville. This discussion will continue on May 23, 1995.

Re: Worksession with Southern  
Christian Leadership Conference,  
(SCLC) Montgomery County  
Chapter

The Mayor and Council met with Chairman Jim Moone and other representatives of the SCLC: Lyles Battle, Sterling King, Oliver Marsh, Condie Clayton, and Tom Evans. The following topics were discussed:

1. Affirmative Action - Mr. Moone noted that traditionally, the SCLC has met with the Mayor and Council relative to the Affirmative Action Plan. He said that SCLC tracked the City vigorously to see what progress has been made. Personnel Director Rich Hajewski explained how under-utilized classes of employee positions were dealt with. He noted that there were no tremendous changes in demographics; however, there had been an increase in the percentage of minorities and women hired as well as an increase in the upshifting of employees into higher paid classes. Mr. Hajewski said that the department would like to do more targeted advertising, however, the advertising budget was limited. Additional funds would be needed to increase advertisements to expand into the areas of radio, diverse publications, and other media sources.

Oliver Marsh said that he had been receiving the City's vacancy notices after or close to the date that the postings closed. He asked that these be sent out more timely. He also noted that not all of the organizations that should receive the City's Affirmative Action Plan were getting them.

2. Human Rights Refocus Plan - Mr. Kuckkahn said that for a number of months, the City had been working on a Human Rights Refocus Plan, and staff was preparing to present the plan to the Mayor and Council on May 23. He informed SCLC that there was also a County-wide move toward community mediation.

Mayor Coyle noted that a long-standing complaint by the Human Rights Commission was that they did not hear many cases; the Commission proposed to the



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Mayor and Council that they move towards mediating community disputes.

Councilmember Krasnow said it was important to note that the process did not diminish the role of the Human Rights Commission; they will still handle discrimination issues, however, in a more proactive way.

Mr. Moone said that SCLC was concerned about the budgetary aspects of the Human Rights Commission's new initiative and he said that he had serious concerns about the number of staff in the Community Services Department that were decreased. Mayor Coyle noted that the same number of staff was not needed as the department shifted towards the community mediation program.

SCLC member Lyles Battle, asked that the City provide him with information on minority contracting and procurement.

3. RCI Contracting with Disadvantaged Businesses - Mr. Moone asked what influence and interest did the Mayor and Council have on a legal, moral, and a financial basis regarding the Town Center redevelopment. Mr. Moone said SCLC was concerned that minority contractors were only sub-contractors, and only 2 percent of the dollars spent for the redevelopment was spent for minorities. SCLC has been meeting with RCI in an attempt to inform them of who and where the minority contractors were. Mr. Moone stated that SCLC was not happy with Donohoe Construction. Councilmember Krasnow noted that the City did not have any legal responsibility in this area, but because their relationship with RCI was good, they would approach the issue with them. The City will

also ask for a status report on this matter.

Councilmember Dorsey asked if SCLC could give the Mayor and Council some type of guidance on how the City might supplement or exert some influence in this area. Mr. Moone noted that SCLC was meeting with RCI on June 5, 1995, and he said that the meeting will include a tour of the downtown redevelopment progress. Mr. Moone asked that SCLC's Government Affairs Committee be allowed to come back to the Mayor and Council with other Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Policy issues.

The worksession with SCLC adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Re: Worksession with Peerless  
Rockville

The Mayor and Council met with Sima Osdoby, Eileen McGuckian and other Peerless Board members, regarding Peerless Rockville's request that the City grant a long-term funding loan of \$35,000 and an emergency funding request of \$3,500 per month. Peerless Rockville indicated that a tenant at the Montrose School which was owned by Peerless, was not paying rent and the matter was tied up in litigation. Ms. Osdoby noted some important facts:

- Peerless' operating budget is approximately \$86,000 per year and there is no fat in their budget and nothing to cut.
- Peerless is housed in the Red Brick Courthouse. The Montgomery County

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Historic Society is housed in the Beall-Dawson House, which is a City-owned building. Ms. Osdoby noted that Gaithersburg's Historic Society is provided with office space and other in-kind services by the City of Gaithersburg, and she said that in a similar relationship existed with Historic Annapolis and the City of Annapolis.

Ms. Osdoby also spoke about the level of City support that Peerless received. Councilmembers Krasnow and Weisbroth questioned whether Peerless had pursued any other funding sources, e.g., the County. Eileen McGuckian responded that Peerless had approached the County, however, the response was negative. Regarding grants, Ms. McGuckian said that they do receive grants for special projects, however, these do not make money back for the organization. Mr. Kuckkahn suggested that the City provide the emergency funding that Peerless Rockville needed. Councilmember Krasnow asked if there were other ways that the City could help Peerless through in-kind contributions similar to what other Cities provide for their historic organizations.

It was suggested that the Mayor and Council and staff sit down and talk with the County regarding some form of rent abatement and other support for Peerless Rockville. The Mayor and Council reached consensus to go forth with a \$3,500 per month assistance loan that will be repaid based on the outcome of Peerless Rockville's settlement with the Montrose School.

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Councilmember Dorsey suggested that Peerless get Rockville citizens and the community behind their efforts, and he said that there was need to convince the public to be part of the organization and to support it.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the Worksession adjourned at 11:16 p.m., to reconvene in General Session on May 22, 1995 at 7:30 p.m., or upon the call of the Mayor.